GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2000
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2003
MINIMUM WAGES
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the Trade Unions have requested to the Union Government to increase minimum wages;

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the Working Group on Minimum Wages (WGMW) has recommended minimum wage of Rs.66/- per day to the labourers; and

(d) if so, the details of other recommendations made by them and the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a) to (d): In pursuance of the decision taken at tripartite fora of Central Advisory Board constituted under section 8 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in its meeting held on 27th June, 2002, the Government set up a Working Group to go into the Codification of the concept of Minimum Wages, Listing out Guidelines based on Critical Evaluation of Various Parameters and also to Study the Problems in Implementation of Minimum Wages. It has recommended the norms in terms of 3 consumption units and per capita requirement of food, clothing, fuel, lighting and miscellaneous items including Children`s education, medical requirement etc. as determined by the results of quinquennial Consumer Expenditure Survey for Rural Areas conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Based on these norms the Working Group worked out afresh the national minimum wage at Rs.66/- per day to be made applicable to unskilled labour in respect of each employment.

The other major recommendations inter-alia include revision of national minimum wage with statutory support every five years coinciding with quinquennial consumer expenditure survey; Continuation of Variable Dearness Allowance, strengthening enforcement machinery, minimization of regional disparities in minimum wages through the mechanism of regional level committees etc. No decision has yet been taken by the Government regarding acceptance of the report of the Working Group.